

VALENCIA BAY-FARER

WRITTEN BY STUDENTS. READ BY ALL.

FREE TO KIDS

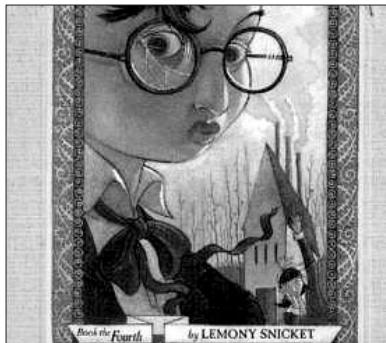


There are not one, not two, but three amazing authors who you would love! Lisa Yee, who writes the *American Girl* books, Daniel Handler, who writes *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, and Stefan Petrucha, who writes the *Nancy Drew* comics.

Lisa Yee writes books about the *American Girls* Ivy, Julie, and Kanani. According to Yee, she was asked by *American Girl* to write for the series, and "was honored to do so." Her favorite *American Girl* dolls are Ivy Ling and Kanani Akina. In the 1970s, Yee grew up in a Chinese-American family, which inspired her to write *Good Luck, Ivy*. For the Kanani books, she was "inspired by the 'aloha spirit' of Hawaii." As I learned from Yee's books, everybody in Kauai calls each other "aunt" and "uncle," even when they're not related! Yee added, "I was also moved by the plight of the endangered Hawaiian monk seals, so I made sure to include them in the books. My family is also a big inspiration to me, especially my kids. They're always saying,

AMAZING AUTHORS

BY CALISTA NICHOLSON, AGE 9



"Oh no, Mom, you're going to use that in a book, aren't you?" When asked if she has a favorite book that she's written, Yee said, "I have a special place in my heart for *Millicent Min, Girl Genius* because it was my first novel." Her next book will be for teenagers, but she writes for all ages. When asked if she had a favorite book, she said, "some books I've read

recently that I've loved include *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio and *Breaking Stalin's Nose* by Eugene Yelchin." Isn't she cool? Check out her website at www.lisayee.com. Go Lisa Yee!

Daniel Handler is a mystery. Is he Lemony Snicket? Is that his real name? He lives in San Francisco, or does he? I went on a mission to find out what he's like. As it turns out, he thinks "it would be interesting if terrible things happened to children, over and over!" And that inspired him to write *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. For those of you who liked the movie version, don't get your hopes up for another movie, because according to Snicket, "one was more than enough." His favorite book is *The Headless Cupid* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder — or is it?

Stefan Petrucha, co-author of the *Nancy Drew: Girl Detective* graphic novels, writes lots of different kinds of books for all ages, not just mysteries. When

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REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING

BY ISABELLA DANIELS, AGE 10

The Sierra Nevada glaciers are disappearing. The rainforests are losing their rain, and animals are struggling to stay alive. Why is this happening? The answer is global warming. Global warming is a human-driven process caused by pollution such as excess carbon dioxide and methane. *National Geographic* teaches us that these pollutants are known as greenhouse gases. Laura Wisland, a

Clean Energy Analyst from the Union of Concerned Scientists in Berkeley, California, describes it as, "kind of like a blanket covering the earth. These pollutants create a thick layer of gas around our planet." This blanket is what is causing the rising temperature on earth.

What can we do to make it better and help stop the problem? Some solutions Wisland offered are carpooling or, better yet, riding a bike to school or work, and turning off the lights when you leave the room. Some other ways she suggested are

installing solar panels and using wind-generated electricity.

If we don't act soon, we won't have the same earth we have now. *

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WATER POLLUTION: WHAT ON EARTH?

BY AUDREY CHU, AGE 10



Photo courtesy of vertmongre.files.wordpress.com

Do you know how water pollution affects the earth? According to Brian E. Gray, a professor of environmental law, a lot of pollutants recently in West Virginia because some people use mountain top mining. Chicken farms also frequently overflow during storms and the snowmelt mixed with millions of gallons of raw animal waste go into the rivers and hurt fish and other animals.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE OCEAN WITH JUST A BLUE MARBLE

BY MADDY BROWN, AGE 8

Have you ever heard people talking about being green? Well, maybe you should start thinking about being "blue." Being blue basically means caring about the ocean.

A way to help you remember the ocean is the Blue Marble Project. If someone hands you a blue marble, don't be surprised. You should hold the marble in front of your eye. It should look like the earth from far away. Then you give it away and tell someone else to do the same.

You're probably wondering who invented the Blue Marble Project: Dr. Wallace J. Nichols. He is a marine biologist. He started this project because an oil spill wrecked the sea. Nichols, in his *Huffington Post* article, "What Will You Do With Your Blue Marble?" said, "We must do more for the ocean, we must do it better, and we must do it now."

That's what the Blue Marble Project is. Now that you know what to do with



Image courtesy of eoimages.gsfc.nasa.gov

a blue marble, I hope you'll start to feel blue. I asked Dr. Nichols what makes him feel blue, and he said, "Blue in the BLUEMIND way: hearing the ocean, sleeping to the sounds of the ocean, remembering my favorite ocean experiences. Blue in the sad way: when my girls are sick." Dr. Nichols is a dad. He's not just a business person, he has children. When children grow up, they're going to share what you made for them. So, if you are bad to the ocean, they are going to have to fix that! *

The bay is much dirtier than you think; the bay is full of garbage, trash, and raw or moldy food. I saw a bay so dirty that there was a fish floating on the water. You can help save the fish too! You can help by going to the once-a-year Save the Bay, where you go to the beach and help pick up trash from the beach.

Brian E. Gray says, "We have many laws that are designed to prevent water pollution and protect fish, wildlife, and human uses of water. These include the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. Environmental organizations and citizens groups have brought lawsuits to stop mountain top mining, to require CAFOs to dispose of their animals wastes more carefully, and to require water projects to release water to protect salmon and other fish." *

Amazing Authors

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asked what inspired him to write horror books, he replied, "I enjoy all sorts of genres, and got my start in comic books... I've also written science fiction, mysteries, thrillers, and about 300 Mickey Mouse stories, so it's not all dark." If you're a *Nancy Drew* fan, then you know the name Carolyn Keene. Did you know she isn't an actual person? Well, that fact sure came out of the dark! Petrucha and his co-author are actually the first *Nancy Drew* writers to have their real names appear on the books! Petrucha is "also having a lot of fun" writing *Power Rangers Super Samurai* graphic novels for elementary school readers. His favorite book he's written for younger readers is called *Ripper*, "about a young man who learns that he's the son of the world's most famous killer." Isn't he cool? So get your head out of the dark, and start reading one of his books! *

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THE NEW iPhone 5

BY RYLEEN EDWARDS, AGE 8

If you want to know about the iPhone 5, check it out here. The iPhone 5 has Siri, who is a girl that you could ask questions to and she would answer them. For example, you could ask her what is the weather, and she would answer that it's going to be seventy-nine degrees in San Francisco.

You could do anything on the iPhone 5. If you get it, you should try out Siri. The iPhone 5 broke the record of selling two million iPhones on the first day!

A CUP OF SOCIAL NETWORKING

BY LOLA MORRELL, AGE 10



Images courtesy of webdesignledger.com

Do you recall the word "Facebook"? What about "Twitter"? And "LinkedIn"? A lot of thoughts probably just went through your head: tweets, posts, all on the social network. The social network is the place where old friends that haven't seen each other for years reconnect and where enemies that will see each other in five seconds chat.

But the problem is: you go on the computer, you want to check up with your friends, but how? You could use email, but you like Facebook better. But all your friends are on Google+, and Google+ isn't your style. What about Twitter? No, too many enemies on there. What about Pinterest? Nah. LinkedIn? Nah. MySpace? Only musicians on there. So,

The screen used to be three inches, but now it's four inches instead of three. The iPhone 5 and the iPhone 4S both have Siri. You get up to 225 hours of doing stuff before you charge your iPhone 5. You also get up to eight hours of talking time. You could do lots of stuff on the iPhone 5 at once.

The color options are black or white. The iPhone 5 is two times faster than the iPhone 4S. It's 2% lighter, 18% thinner, and has 12% less volume. Also, Apple duplicated the pins on the charger so you can rotate the charger any way you want.

what network do you use?

Facebook, according to *Digital Buzz*, has about 71.2% of the internet audience on their website as of 2011. The 18 to 24 age demographic of Facebook grew the fastest at 74% in one year, and the over 35 demographic now represents more than 30% of the entire user-base (*Digital Buzz*, 2011, "Facebook Statistics, Stats & Facts for 2011"). I could fit more *Digital Buzz* facts in here, but instead I will just say that most of the world is on Facebook.

Twitter is, for me, easy to use because you can easily find who is following who, what people have posted, and you can post whatever you think on your own page. Simply, the only skills you really need to use Twitter are the abilities to read, write on a keyboard, and click. Therefore, it's easy to use and tons of people use it.

Google+ does not have as many users as Facebook and Twitter, but I personally think it will grow. All other Google things gain users, and you can easily switch from Gmail to Google Drive to Google Images to, finally, Google+. I favor it because I can easily get from Gmail to Google+, and I think it is as easy to use as Twitter with the good look of Facebook.

Apple said, "the launch of the iPhone 5 has been one of the most successful in the history of smartphones." Once they made the announcement, there were over two million people that pre-ordered the iPhone 5.

That's what I know about the iPhone 5. *



Image courtesy of cdn4.digitaltrends.com

Do you want all the friends on Facebook, the ease of Twitter, or the handiness of Google+?

A technology teacher at Katherine Delmar Burke School, Jennifer Howland, likes all of them. She uses social networking in her professional life and her personal life. She keeps up with friends through Facebook and is professional in Google+ and Twitter.

"I like the visual ease of Facebook; and I like the more text-based Twitter for scanning for tech projects and what the buzz is in the tech world. I like nosing around LinkedIn to see what teachers and tech people I can connect with and to see what they are all doing. LinkedIn has been good for finding former colleagues from my Children's Television Workshop and *Voyage of the Mimi* jobs. It is fun to see where people have ended up," Howland answered when asked what she liked about the different networks.

She likes different things about different networks, and I think this is how many people feel.

So each network has variety, and each is good in different ways. Some prefer one network over others, and some use it all, but either way, social networking has America tied up in Tweet suits. *

THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' WRONGDOINGS

BY NOAH KILPACK, AGE 10

During the election season the only things you hear are what the presidential candidates are doing right. Have you heard what they are doing wrong? In this article, we will go over some of the things that they are doing poorly.

Barack Obama has said only good things about himself. He has never said any bad thing about what he has done to our country. Although he has done some things right, he has also done other things wrong. Doctor Pete Weber, a longtime dentist who lives in Utah said, "He failed miserably to fulfill his promises from four years ago." One of his promises from four years ago was that more people would get jobs. Pete Weber told me, "Obama said people would get more jobs, but it turned



Photo courtesy of i.usatoday.net

out that people lost jobs."

What have you heard about Mitt Romney? The good things, not the bad things. He has only said good things about himself. People have said that Romney has more money than Obama. Maybe that's true. Maybe that's not. But David Markus of California said, "It doesn't matter how much money you have, it wouldn't matter if they didn't have any money. It matters how good they are and how we think they are going to be from what they have said at their speeches and in their promises." Andrea Gladson, who is a pilot that flies a 747 and lives in Norco,

California, said, "Yes, I think he is too concerned about government money and is not willing to give it away to the people who need it." Taft Kilpack, who goes to Lick Wilmerding High School also said, "Money is a big issue in the election because of the 99%. The 99% idea is that there is 1% that has more money than the 99%. I don't think you can be too concerned about money. Romney has so much money, he doesn't care about our 47% poorest in the country."

My thought on this is that Romney doesn't want to give out government money to the people who need it. I also don't think that it matters how much money you have, it matters how good you are. It matters how good the person is who will serve our country. So think back on who you are going to vote for. Each person has things that they are doing wrong, but you must choose who you think is right for our country. *

CRIMINALS: THE SCUM OF THE EARTH!

BY JACKSON PENFIELD, AGE 10



Image courtesy of blog.newsok.com

Villains have always been a part of comics, without them who would come up with the endless plots that always fail thanks to the magnificent hero? A good example is the new *Avengers* movie, where the villain sends out an alien army while underestimating the hero by not even planning a defense. Going back in time,

we have evidence that cavemen were smarter than some of today's villains, and better dressed to boot. Jon Adams, the creator of *City Cyclops*, a web comic, said, "The Beyonder is an interesting villain because he can do literally anything, but he dresses horribly."

Villains are always: one, under-estimating the heroes; two, letting their egos get in the way of their unholy thirst for revenge and world domination; or three, all of the above. Take your pick. Now the third reason all super villains' plans fail is, they spend too much time planning! Think about it. Remember that ten minute strip in the *Avengers* movie where Loki, the evil villain dude, talks with the evil alien leader about the attack on earth? Come on! Ten minutes in a barren world with an alien? That's ridiculous!

Now, dear readers, I ask you, even if you liked the Avengers, wasn't that a really long plot scene?

Normal criminals are much the same as super villains except without superpowers. They rob you, you call the cops, and the cops stop them, but normal criminals are much more dangerous because this is the real world and it's not like — wait! Stop the presses! Something spectacular has happened! One month ago \$2,000,000 worth of maple syrup was stolen from Québec. This is ridiculous! It makes no sense. Why would anyone steal Canada's beloved maple syrup? This is a national crisis! Canada, we all feel your shame, but what are we going to do? Send you \$2,000,000 to replace the maple syrup? I hope you're heavily insured (Canadians, I apologize if this is offensive, I'm just messing around. I mean no offense). *

PET PROUD

BY JULIA MOORE, AGE 13

Among the ghosts, ghouls, and goblins of late October, Pet Pride Day is upon us again! The event is held in Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park, and all pets — and pet lovers — are welcome to join the fun. So bring your scaly, feathered, or furry friend and join us on October 28, for an afternoon in the park, complete with prizes for best costume and best trick.

Are you a dog lover but haven't found that special pooch? Try for love at first sight during the dating game put on by Animal Care and Control, the city shelter, where you might just find your Fido. Or maybe you'll want to check out some of the vending booths, such as Happy Hounds Massage, K9 Scrub Club, The Shelter Dog Toy-Making Station, Wag Hotels, Sports Basement, and many more. If you're looking to adopt, there will also be booths for rescue groups with a wide variety of animals. From chinchillas to companion birds, rattle ratz to kitty cats, you're sure to have a good time at Pet Pride Day.

The director of the event, Friends of Animal Care and Control co-president Jane Tobin, had this to say on Pet Pride Day, "After having been there for so many years, you see a lot of the same people. They come in costumes with their pets and it's an annual tradition for them. It makes me a little sad when I realize they have a new dog. Sad because I have been doing this long enough that I've known people who have had a couple of pets along the way that have passed on. They still keep coming though — happy to share the tradition with their new pet!" When asked what Mrs. Tobin thought made Pet Pride Day special, she said, "It's never lost its community feel-goodness" and went on to say, "it's remained free and has felt like a celebration from the

MIXED BREED VS. PUREBRED: WHICH ONE IS BETTER FOR YOU?

BY NOA SOKATCH, AGE 10

Looking for advice on the next family friend? Dogs make great companions. The only thing left is: mixed breeds or purebreds? Purebreds are amazing dogs. There are many different breeds of purebreds. Here are the top three breeds in the United States according to the American Kennel Club: Labrador Retrievers, German Shepherds, and Beagles. Although they are perfect and sweet, dogs can also get diseases. There are certain diseases associated with each breed.

For example, one disease that Golden Retrievers can get is hip dysplasia. "Mixed breed dogs are slightly healthier," says Dr. Anne Macfarlane from Pets Unlimited. You can normally get purebreds from breeders. Just ask your vet where one is located. If you decide to

get it at a breeder, make sure the dog has bright eyes, clean ears, and a moist nose. Make sure he/she is frisky, but not too hyper, and calm, but not too shy.

A different approach to getting a dog is adopting from a shelter. It's cool because while you get the dog, you also kind of save its life. If you are looking for a shelter, try the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). Usually dogs from shelters were abused or abandoned. When you adopt, you are taking it out of a bad place. Normally when you adopt, it's free, but sometimes there is an adoption fee. Adoption fees range from \$100 to \$300. It costs less to adopt an older dog and more to adopt a puppy. Mixed breed dogs contain two or more breeds in them. Another word for mixed breed is "mongrel." Mixed breeds are generally healthier and heartier than purebreds. They also have lengthier life spans than purebreds according to *Wikipedia*. Getting a dog is very exciting, and now you know what to look for! *



Photo courtesy of helpacc.org

noon. If you're planning on entering a competition (best costume and/or best trick), registration begins at eleven in the morning and the event ends at three in the afternoon. There will be a special presentation from DiscDogg, the frisbee dogs, from 2:45 to 3:00 PM.

So come one, come all, and enjoy the fun of the nineteenth annual Pet Pride Day! *

MICHAEL PHELPS RETIRES

BY MIA BLAYLOCK, AGE 9



Photo courtesy of img5.mi9.com

Did you know that Michael Phelps RETIRED?? Well sadly, he did, with twenty-two medals in total, eighteen of them gold, and at only age twenty-seven! The person with the most gold medals in history has retired!

Lots of people want him to keep on going and will miss him, but if you look on the bright side, he finished his

career the way he wanted to. You would think, "What will he do after he retires?" According to *The Torch*, "He would like to travel and visit some of the cities he competed in (but outside of the bubble of swim meets)." He would like to be able to travel around and take a break.

My swim coach, Joe "is a fan of Michael Phelps because of his dedication

to swimming." Even though many people will miss him, some people like my coach say, "I will miss him, but he has really accomplished everything, and he is getting older, and he might have less fuel." He also said that if he were Michael Phelps he would "probably retire too, because of the pressure, that everyone was relying on him to win and if he lost it would be a failure. Another reason why is because he might have been worn out or tired of swimming so hard."

Later I asked Joe, "How much would you pay to talk to Michael Phelps?" and he answered, "Around \$25,000." (Wow, that is a lot!) As a coach, he also said that he would ask "about tips for swimming."

I think that Michael Phelps encouraged a lot of swimmers to try harder and encouraged them to try to beat his scores and feel what winning feels like, and also to let them feel proud of themselves. *

HAS TIGER WOODS HIT A GOLFING SLUMP?

BY JACQUELINE ACOSTA, AGE 10

Tiger Woods was the greatest golfer in the world, but he "has not won a major title in more than four years," says Mark Lampert in his *Chicago Tribune* article "Tiger happy with 2012 season, despite major drought." At the 112th U.S. Open, he did not do very good, landing in fourteenth place. The last major title he got was at the U.S. Open in 2008. He has also won the FedEx Cup honors in 2007 and 2009. Why did someone so good in the past lose that energy from three years ago?

Michael Acosta, from San Francisco, says, "I like Tiger Woods because I like his swing. I think he will get better because he is relatively young." Another fan, Emerson Goodrich from San Francisco, says, "I like Tiger Woods because he is



Photo courtesy of 4.bp.blogspot.com

very consistent. I don't think he will get better because he has already reached his peak in his career." These two people think that Tiger Woods is a good player, but this next person thinks differently. Connor Buestad says, "I do not like Tiger Woods because he is not a good person. He has bad sportsmanship. He yells and screams when he hits a bad shot. He will not get better because he was really good in the past, and it is hard to get back to that level. He lost his confidence, and confidence is important in sports."

Personally, I think that he already

had his good times and he cannot get as good as he used to be. He does not have as much energy as before when he was winning "all" the golf tournaments he participated in. *

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